

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

STEELCASE, INC. a Michigan  
corporation,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No.: 1:04cv0026  
Hon. Robert Holmes Bell  
Chief, U. S. District Judge

HARBIN'S INC., an Alabama  
corporation, MICHAEL G. HARBIN  
and HOPE D. HARBIN PATTERSON (now  
HOPE DUNCAN PATTERSON),

Defendants.

---

MILLER, JOHNSON, SNELL &  
CUMMISKEY, P. L. C.  
Jon G. March (P17065)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
250 Monroe Avenue, N. W. - Ste 800  
P. O. Box 306  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0306  
(616) 831-1700

---

SILVERMAN, SMITH, BINGEN & RICE, P.C.  
Robert W. Smith (P31192)  
Attorneys for Defendant Michael G. Harbin  
151 S. Rose Street  
707 Comerica Building  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(269) 381-2090

HOPE D. HARBIN - PATTERSON (now  
HOPE DUNCAN PATTERSON)  
Defendant in Pro Per  
4514 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd., 238  
Atlanta, GA 30338-6202

---

**DEFENDANT MICHAEL G. HARBIN'S MOTION TO APPEAR AT THE  
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE TELEPHONICALLY**

Plaintiff Michael G. Harbin ("Harbin"), by and through his attorneys SILVERMAN,  
SMITH & RICE, P.C., moves this Court for permission to appear at the Settlement  
Conference, scheduled in this matter, telephonically, and in support of his motion says as  
follows:

1. On April 27, 2005, this Court issued its Order requiring the parties to appear in person at the Settlement Conference scheduled for May 27, 2005.
2. Harbin is a resident of the State of Florida and does business in the State of Florida.
3. Defendant Hope D. Harbin (now Hope D. Patterson) is a resident of the State of Georgia.
4. Plaintiff Steelcase, Inc. ("Steelcase") is a resident of the State of Michigan and has its offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
5. Harbin is an individual who has recently lost his business and is trying to reestablish a new career. Requiring him to obtain transportation from Florida to Grand Rapids, MI, the cost of, at least one overnight stay and possibly two, will be a financial hardship.
6. Harbin will be available by telephone to participate in settlement negotiations. He believes settlement discussions can be conducted just as effectively with him available by telephone.

WHEREFORE, Harbin requests this Court grant him permission to appear at the Settlement Conference, on May 27, 2005, telephonically.

Dated: May 19, 2005

SILVERMAN, SMITH & RICE, P.C.  
Attorneys for Defendant Michael Harbin

/s/ Robert W. Smith  
Robert W. Smith (P31192)